

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 29 as follows:

*C2* 18 *29.* (Amended) The sputtering target according to Claim *21*, wherein the target material has a thickness of from 2 to 10 mm. *10*

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends the specification; and amends Claim 29. Support for Claim 29 is found in the specification at least at page 13, lines 18-19. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 12-36 will be pending in this application. Claims 12 and 21 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing, and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during the May 24, 2001, personal interview. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that filing in the present application a copy of the original Declaration from the parent application would establish priority to the PCT application in the present application, and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is withdrawn. Interview Summary dated May 24, 2001.

The Office Action objects to the Declaration. To obviate this objection, a copy of the original Declaration filed March 12, 1998, in the parent application and claiming the priority of International Application No. PCT/JP96/00767 is attached. Thus, the objection to the